

(e) the number of new phone connections given in Kerala during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Rs. 508 crores has been earmarked upto RE stage for development of telecom in Kerala during 1996-97.

(b) The amount allotted for development of telecom in Kerala during last three years is as under:-

Year	Amount (Rs. Crores)
1993-94	271.00
1994-95	310.00
1995-96	636.00

(c) Out of the target of 2,28,000 DELs for 1996-97, the circle has provided 1,06,094 DELs upto 31.01.1997.

(d) Rs. 388.22 crores have been spent for development of telecom upto January, 1997 in the current year. The figures of last three years are as under:-

Year	Amount (Rs. Crores)
1993-94	292.58
1994-95	328.86
1995-96	630.26

(e) The number of new telephone connections given in Kerala during the last three years are as under :-

Year	New connections given
1993-94	58,936
1994-95	90,460
1995-96	1,54,033

Railway Line from Bargachia to Munshirhat

2124. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress of the construction of railway line from Bargachia to Munshirhat of Howrah-Amra section of South Eastern Railway;

(b) whether the Government are considering to increase the frequency of train services between Howrah and Bargachia;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Out of 8 Km. line, the land available is for only 5 Km. Earth-work in this

stretch with two minor bridges has already been completed. Work is in progress on remaining 10 minor bridges and the tender for major bridge is under process. The work would be completed in 1997-98 if land is made available by State Government.

(b) There is no such proposal at present.

(e) Does not arise.

(d) Operational and Resource constraints.

National Aluminium Company Limited

2125. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have asked the National Aluminium Company Limited to chalk out a strategy to increase exports and reduce its inventory position;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for the alarming inventory build-up by the National Aluminium Company Limited;

(d) its impact on NALCO's exports; and

(e) the other measures being taken by the Government to improve the financial and technical working of NALCO?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) to (e) National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) is a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signing Company. The Company's performance is reviewed at the level of Government periodically. The Company takes various commercial decisions from time to time including about the exports keeping in view its best commercial interest. The Company had earned highest ever profit during the year 1995-96. NALCO has got state-of-the-art technology for production of aluminium. Selling price of aluminium is linked with London Metal Exchange (LME) prices. The LME prices had shown down-ward trend during the year 1996 and it had affected all the primary producers of aluminium. Resultantly all primary producers of aluminium faced a situation of higher inventory. Besides, in case of NALCO, Truck Association of Angul had gone on strike during August, 1996.

Railway Projects of New Mumbai

2126. SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVIN CHANDRA MEHTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of Railway Projects pertaining to new Mumbai are awaiting clearance;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for their pendency; and

(c) the time by which these projects are likely to be cleared and implemented?